

Final critique, BOC 72/1

20 January 1972

25X1A9a

FROM: [REDACTED] 120

1. In general, I felt that the course was worthwhile, well organized and well presented.

2. Students in a course of this nature are primarily interested in facts and concrete specifics as opposed to vague generalizations. I feel that those presentations which I considered to be good, and which were generally well accepted by the class could be characterized by the openness and willingness of the instructor to discuss the particulars of his subject. I feel that those presentations that were not well received had in common the fact that the instructors were exceedingly wary of revealing operational details to the extent that it "Turned Off" the audience. I believe that if a subject is construed to be of such sensitivity that it requires vagueness to discuss it then it loses so much of its teaching value as to be worthless and should be substituted by an operation which can be freely discussed. I believe there is a fine line between CI awareness and paranoia and that guest speakers should be forewarned that the students expect frank answers and that students quickly lose all interest when told "I'm here to discuss _____", and then all their questions are answered with "I'm afraid I can't talk about that."

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3. The following segments were excellent, in so far as they went, but could be better with the following modifications:
[REDACTED] - Sufficient time should be allotted to allow each trainee to take, and see the results of, the [REDACTED]. This would allow future COs to better decide on its application to agents.

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DDS&T - There were many areas of "Nice to know" information that went uncovered due to lack of time, since this is such a broad field perhaps it could best be handled by a short introduction and then throwing the floor open for questions.

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[REDACTED] - This very fundamental and necessary skill was far too superficially treated. The speaker was outstanding but obviously had more material than he could cover in the time available. In my opinion, this subject should receive several days in the POI, including extensive practical work. Logically, this training should occur early on in the course so the techniques could be practiced in subsequent problems.

[REDACTED] - Again, an excellent idea that could have used more time and would have been more meaningful if presented earlier in the course so the lessons learned could have been applied throughout the training.

4. The presentation on The New Left, while entertaining, due to the speaker Mr. [REDACTED] was too vague to be really useful. Mr. [REDACTED] is an excellent speaker who can make even the driest material palatable but he was severely limited by the constraints placed on him by CI/SO. The subject of the New Left is one which it seems, intuitively, will play an ever increasing role in future agency operations and one with which this generation of case officers is illy prepared to cope with.

5. The presentation on [REDACTED] was significant in that it was the most singularly worthless segment of the course. The reasons for this rather bold statement are as follows:

- a. [REDACTED] always an area of importance to the CS, is of vital concern to the US in light of recent diplomatic developments. This fact makes up to the minute information on [REDACTED] one of the most important subjects this course could have covered, the [REDACTED] presentation was intended to do this and failed.
- b. The actual presentation amounted to little more than a poor history of [REDACTED] (A history of [REDACTED] had this been the stated aim of the lecture, could have been more ably handled by Mr. [REDACTED] of OTR.)
- c. After stating an intention to discuss current ops the guest speakers proved unable or unwilling to do so.
- d. In response to several questions upon which individual students had specific knowledge the speakers gave answers which were incorrect, whether this was due to a lack of knowledge or an attempt to mislead, I am not qualified to say. Whatever the reason for the false answers, it made the class disinclined to believe the utterances of these "Experts" on questions to which the answers were not already known.

6. [REDACTED] presentation on the flow of CS reporting was very worthwhile and timely.

7. The technical training was significant for its uniform excellence, both in the material presented and in the abilities of the instructors. The willingness of the TSD, Commo and Photo instructors to take time to go into any matter at any time was both refreshing and commendable.

8. The [REDACTED] exercise while potentially useful was generally regarded lightly by the class due to the nebulous requirements to "[REDACTED]" and the fact that it required the use of weekend time after a work week away from families. This exercise would be more meaningful if the student were assigned a specific target, i.e. [REDACTED]

25X1A14a 9. Every speaker who addresses himself to the matter of
[REDACTED] tells how [REDACTED] fail and how
25X1A14a he, the speaker, spent the first two-thirds of his tour devel-
oping his [REDACTED]. Despite this, all of
25X1A14a the exercises involve a slam-bam [REDACTED] no later than the second
meeting. While I realize that the demands of the training
schedule dictate that things move at an ordered pace, I regret
that a way cannot be found to make the exercises more nearly
reflect the realities of the field in this respect.

25X1A2g 10. I feel it takes a very short time to make the average
BOC trainee a competent technician on the various commo systems,
etc., however, I feel that the average BOC trainee is definitely
lacking in the area of social presence, an area vital to a
successful CS officer. To remedy this situation I propose more
exercises of a [REDACTED] nature to accustom the trainees
to dealing with strangers in a social atmosphere.

25X1A2g 11. [REDACTED]: I felt that, overall, [REDACTED] was an
25X1A2g effective exercise that accomplished its stated goals. I
25X1A2g feel, however, that while [REDACTED] was billed as an exercise
where the teams would be given free rein, in actuality there
was excessive guidance by the OO's and the station contact.
I believe that this excessive guidance often led the OO's or
the station contact to pre-empt decisions that the team would
ultimately make but which, due to the intercession of the
instructor, it appeared the team had overlooked.

25X1A9a 12. I feel that Mr. [REDACTED] presentation on PM activ-
ities was very worthwhile and could, perhaps, be expanded to
include a discussion of Agency worldwide PM capabilities.

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